



Claims Made He Is This Since the Days of Joe Gans—Welsh Logical Opponent.

Willie Ritchie seems fated not to be accepted as a prophet in his own land. Despite the masterly style in which he encompassed the defeat of Tommy Murphy, and, harking still further back, notwithstanding his showing against Joe Rivers, Lench Cross and Ad Wolgast, there remains that disposition on the part of many to make excuses for the defeated and to belittle the champion, says Harry B. Smith in a recent issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

It doesn't seem quite fair, in view of what the San Francisco title-holder has accomplished, but it isn't the style of the world to be fair. Hence it happens that Ritchie, who has done all that could be asked of him and accomplished it in workmanlike manner, is still more or less an object of debate, with the inevitable question mark appearing when his ability is mentioned.

Fortunately for the fairness of the American sporting public, such an opinion does not generally maintain. It is the minor sentiment, but a minority, as the world recognizes, can sometimes make quite enough noise to be considered as an active factor. A majority of the critics who saw Ritchie in his bout with Murphy and a majority of the thinking fans are quite agreed, that the local youngster showed wonderful improvement over previous performances in the West; handled himself as a veteran, and more than that showed the spirit of aggressiveness, not being content merely with a close verdict in his favor. Ritchie has been labeled as the nearest approach to Joe Gans since the Baltimore lightweight passed out of ring history, and it is a tribute of which he is deserving.

It is quite generally agreed, as well, that Ritchie has an easy field in front of him, with, perhaps one chap—Fred Welsh—entitled to serious consideration as a contender. And whether Welsh is to remain to the fore as a challenger will depend largely upon the way he shapes up against Lench Cross in Los Angeles and his prospective battle some weeks later against this same Tommy Murphy.

As such boxers as Gans and Abe Attel had ample opportunity to realize, it is not well to be so formidable in any classes as to find it difficult in the extreme to land matches. The big money is only to be secured where the contests are of sufficient importance to attract large crowds, and unless new faces are brought to the front, Ritchie will find very shortly that he has fought himself through the flat.

From that standpoint, he is fortunate, undoubtedly, in having critics who do not take kindly to his worth and argue against him. That naturally creates the impression that the other fellow is to be more seriously regarded, and while it is by no means flattering to a champion, all the same it's water on his wheel.

Murphy Match First Test.

The Murphy match was in many ways the first real test and unquestionably the most severe to which Ritchie has been subjected, at least in California. The bout with Rivers did not go a sufficient length to prove much as regards ring generalship. Ritchie, after a sorry start and a slow one knocked out Rivers by a knockout, and to bring the charge that Rivers quit cold.

With the New Yorker, it was a different story. Tommy, while he had absolutely no chance of winning, forced Ritchie to extend himself and to show what he has. The Californian proved his ability to beat Murphy at every angle of the game, and while there was some disappointment that Ritchie did not score a knockout, at the same time he won so far off and made so spectacular a finish in the last two rounds, there could be little on which to criticize the boy.

When the local man started against Ad Wolgast, he had precious little experience, a light left jab that was more tantalizing than dangerous, and his right cross. Today he has outfitted himself with a left, both to the head and body, and what is more it's a hard punch. He is cool-headed in the tight spots and has the fighting spirit.

Getting back to the criticisms that have been leveled at Ritchie, apropos of his most recent match, here are a few picked out:

Lench Cross—I don't agree with my brother that Ritchie is an improved boxer. I think he has gone back since his match with me in New York.

Sam Wallace (manager and brother of Lench Cross)—Ritchie to me didn't show the same snap in his punches that he did against Cross, but for all that he is entitled to a world of credit. He is better than ever and his speed is the last two rounds was simply wonderful.

Fred Welsh—I am all right to give Murphy five out of the twenty rounds with four even. The match convinced me that Ritchie is overrated and I am more sure than ever that I will beat him.

Joe Gans—I don't agree with my brother that Ritchie is an improved boxer. I think he has gone back since his match with me in New York.

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Clips Fifth of a Second Off Old Figure in Ninety-Yard Sprint at Brooklyn.

One world's record was broken and another equaled at the annual athletic carnival held by the Loughlin Lyceum at the Thirteenth Regiment armory, Brooklyn, on April 27. Howard P. Drew of the University of Southern California, the premier sprinter of the Nation, was the record wrecker. He stepped ninety yards in 9.15 seconds, clipping the fifth of a second off the old figure.

On the starting line with him were Jack J. Eller of the Irish-American Athletic Club and Frank Stephenson of the Trinity Club. They all left the mark together and ran abreast for thirty yards and then Drew pulled away and won by three yards. Eller beat Stephenson by a foot for second prize.

Jack Eller was more proud of himself for beating Fred Kelly of the University of California, thus far being credited with equaling the record of 9 seconds over 75 yards in the low hurdles. He gained his lead of a yard in the early stages of the race and triumphed by a yard. Fred Kelly turned the tables on Jack Eller in the 75-yard high hurdles, incidentally equaling the world's record of 9.4 seconds. They went over the hurdles almost even and in the final ten yards the Westerner won by a half yard.

him if he ever gets into the ring with me.

Dewitt Van Court—Even now I can not see Ritchie as a championship caliber, for the simple reason that it might cost him an engagement.

The same thing goes for Welsh, who figures as a contender and has good and sufficient excuses for his lack of success. Dewitt Van Court, having started out on the theory that Ritchie was an accidental champion, stubbornly refuses to allow his mind to be changed by current events.

It's all in the game, however, for it is hardly to be expected that even a champion in his class will have the world won over to his support.

At the same time, I'm going to hazard the guess that unless there are new men to the front, Ritchie is in no danger of being ousted from the kingly seat for some time to come.

With all honor to Tommy Murphy, whose stout heart kept him going when many another scrapper would have fallen by the wayside, he is said that the punishment he received will likely tell on him in the future. Tommy, first of all, isn't a youngster. He is hovering around thirty years of age and has spent thirteen years in the service.

Ring history has proved that a body punching is the most dangerous in a fight, and if Murphy should come West for the Welsh bout, as now intended, it is well worth noting that he will be far from the same Murphy. Granting that Welsh is not in the same class with Ritchie when it comes to poundage behind a blow, there is also the possibility that Murphy will have lost a considerable portion of his speed.

Kearns Makes Unique Claim.

Frequently it happens that an enthusiastic fight manager will claim for his charge some title or other, but to Jack Kearns must be handed the pal for uniqueness. Kearns has pre-empted the middleweight crown for Fighting Billy Murray and right on top of a defeat registered against the Californian by Jimmy Clabby—a decision by the way that was called a draw, although every newspaper man on the job declared it a poor verdict.

Kearns bases his claim on two grounds—one that Clabby left for Australia without giving Murray another chance and the other that Murray is willing to meet anyone in the game.

Both are credible reasons, although hardly compelling. In the first place, Clabby was not and is not the middleweight champion, the title being in as much dispute as ever. Second, the fact that Clabby had other plans would not result in giving Murray the right of way.

Middleweight honors are just as involved today as was ever the case following the death of Ketchel and Murray will hardly profit by his attempt to hold fast to something which certainly does not belong to him as yet.

On the subject of middleweights, if the Eastern papers are a criterion, Al McCoy, the Brooklyn middleweight who knocked out George Chip in a round, is not taken seriously. Most of the writers who saw the bout are inclined to the opinion that the knockout was as nearly an accident as that sort of thing can be. McCoy is described as equipped with an unusually awkward style, going into action with his right foot and right hand forward. He is a southerner so that he naturally has more strength in his left hand punches than in his right.

The blow with which he outed Chip was a left hand uppercut and the one and only punch that McCoy landed in the minute and a half the bout lasted. McCoy is twenty years of age and started in the game as a lightweight. Since 1910, he has participated in sixty contests, most of them a decision at fairs.

McCoy, so it is said, has promised to give Chip another chance. Certainly if he can stop Chip a second time, McCoy's standing in the fight community will be considerably improved.

KEIO'S WRONG IDEA.

Members of the visiting Keio University team have a habit of springing to first on four balls, says the San Francisco Chronicle. The Japs evidently have a foolish idea that the public likes to see the game hurried along.

Neville and Davis Asked to Join Amateur Team To Invade Merrie England.

Two Pacific Coast golfers, Jack Neville and Harry Davis, have been specially honored recently by Walter J. Travis, the Eastern golfer who attained international reputation across the pond several years ago. The Garden City player has been making an effort to arrange an "All-American" amateur team to invade England for an international match between the two countries, and the two Pacific Coast men were chosen by him to make the trip. Unfortunately, it has been found impossible to carry the proposition through this summer, but Travis is still corresponding with the leading clubs and powers that be of England, and expects to accomplish it either in the fall or the spring of next year.

Through the remission of the Waverley Country Club, Portland, which club omitted to send in its handicap list to the United States Golf Association, Harry K. B. Davis' name is not mentioned in the list of golfers eligible to play national championship events. It is somewhat of a farce that a player of Davis' ability should be obliged to depend upon the secretary of his own club for recognition among the leading golfers of the country.

Shirwood Magee of Philadelphia leads the National League, and his percentage of .579 is keeping the Philadelphia team in front, with an average of .316, Brooklyn being next, with .295. The next nine batters are:

Gowdy, Boston, .438; Phelan, Chicago, .500; Gibson, Pittsburgh, .429; Lobert, Philadelphia, .412; Yingling, Cincinnati, .400; Miller, Brooklyn, .400; Killifer, Philadelphia, .385; Daubert, Brooklyn, .385; Dalton, Brooklyn, .375.

Vincent Campbell, Indianapolis, is ahead in the Federal league, with .543, five hits in one day helping his average. The St. Louis team is leading the league in club percentage, with .291.

John Titus of Kansas City, who has hammered out four home runs already, is ahead in the American Association, with .571. Kansas city leads with the stick, with .349, and Indianapolis is next, .283.

Burrell, Des Moines, tops the Western League, with .533. Lord of Mobile is leader in the Southern League, with .467. The club leader is the champion Atlanta team, with .280.

U. OF W. CREW WORKING FOR POUCHKEEPIE RACE

SEATTLE, April 23.—Permitting his ornamen to rest a week after their victory over the University of California and Stanford University on Oakland estuary, Coach Hiram B. Conibear has begun giving the University of Washington varsity eight row-boys on Lake Washington in preparation for the Pouchkeepie regatta. Last night the men rowed twelve miles with only one stop for rest. Conibear said he intended to give the men a longer workout every night, keeping the stroke under thirty, so as to develop form and power.

SUGAR WAITING AT HILO.

Olan, 34,000; Waiakoa, 4800; Hawaii Mill, 8000; Hilo Sugar Co., 4000; Onomea, 11,012; Pepeeokeo, 16,900; Honoma, 12,600; Hakalau, 23,000; Laupahoehoe, 11,820; Kaiwika, 6170; Kukula, 4300; Hanalei Mill, 6450; Pualulu, 1443; Honapou, 4788.

MARYSVILLE, Cal., April 13.

* The Alameda Sugar Company, which had thousands of acres planted to beets in Sutter county, last summer has rented the land for grain raising and is moving personal property to Sallinas.

* The company plans to subdivide the acreage and open it for colonization. There is sufficient property in its holdings to provide for 5000 families.

* The repeal of the sugar tariff is believed to be the cause of this action.

NORTON IS WHIPPED.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, April 28.—Jack Dillon of Indianapolis was awarded the decision over Al Norton of Los Angeles at the end of ten rounds of fast boxing here tonight.

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Williams in American and S. Magee in National League Are the Leaders.

Leading batters in the major and big minor leagues hit the ball at the rate of better than .500, according to averages published at Chicago on April 25. Detroit is leading the American League in hitting, with a club percentage of .272, and New York is next, with .269. Crawford is doing the best work for Detroit, with an average of .500; while Cobb is hitting at .321 and ranks tenth, the first ten batters in the American League are:

Williams, St. Louis, .522; Collins, Chicago, .519; Crawford, Detroit, .500; Jackson, Cleveland, .390; C. Walker, St. Louis, .370; Leifelt, Cleveland, .350; Blackburn, Chicago, .333; McInnis, Philadelphia, .333; Johnston, Cleveland, .323; Cobb, Detroit, .321.

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NAMAQUALAND IN SOUTH AFRICA TO RAISE RUBBER

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, April 17.—It is announced in the press that a company has been formed with a capital of £5000 for the purpose of exploiting the euphorbia dracunga which grows wild in the uplands of Namaqualand, and is stated to yield 17.6 per cent of pure rubber with 70 per cent of resin.

The company holds a concession of some 220 square miles in which there are about 6,000,000 bushes of this rubber-producing plant. The directors are all residents of the Cape province.

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ARMY MEN ARE AD CLUB GUESTS

Commanders of Hawaiian Department Invite Citizens to Schofield Barracks Today.

(From Wednesday Advertiser.) Yesterday was Army day at Ad Club luncheon. A number of military men who were present claimed to have heard of the pirates before. Major General W. H. Carter alleged that he had heard their weekly riot from as far away as his office in the Young Hotel. Brigadier General C. H. Edwards mentioned having heard of them back in Washington. Colonel W. C. Rafferty complained that they had drowned out the noise of his pets at Fort Kaneohe. Major E. V. Smith said he had tried to get away from their racket when he headed the procession on Washington's birthday.

The Army men all agreed that today is the day and the County Fair is the place. As Major Smith said, "To Hail with the Pirates—Let them come!" Speaking of Hawaii, General Carter said:

"We of the army realize that the Hawaiian Islands are invaluable to us, and an awful thing to every other nation that might try to get to San Francisco without passing Hawaii is the safety spot of the Pacific Coast, and as long as we hold it no other nation on earth will dare to visit the coast without permission."

He suggested that the Ad Club order congress to send two corps here, as it would help Honolulu.

General Edwards said his first experience with Hawaii was an entirely legitimate one. He told how the location of the Hawaiian federal building sites were mixed up during Jack Atkinson's time and how, to preserve peace in the official family of the President he was ordered to permanently locate the Immigration, Naval and Quarantine stations and a light-house or two. That was when he was chief of the bureau of insular affairs in Washington. Referring to President Harrison as "this steam-engine in breeches," he said he wished he could be attached to his brigade, and the rest of the Ad Club too, to keep things moving. General Edwards said it was a "darned good thing to see the soldiers and citizens get together as they do here in Honolulu," and he extended a cordial welcome to the citizens who will accept the military hospitality that will be extended to them at the County Fair.

He spoke of the development of commerce and trade in Hawaii and the great future that is in store for this city with the opening of the Panama Canal.

Albion Clark reported briefly on roads. He remarked that the supervisors seemed to have lost control of the situation and he cheered to the echo. Col. Soper reported that three and a half mile mud-hole in Koolau still remained in all its pristine loveliness.

The Ad Club will assemble in front of the Young Hotel at 12:15 o'clock and march to the railway station to take train for the County Fair. Those who miss the train will walk, but they are all going.

BREAKWATER WORK IS SOON TO START

(Mail Special to The Advertiser.) HILO, May 4.—An agreement has been reached between the parties to the controversy over the rock for the Hilo breakwater, and the contract has been awarded to George E. Marshall, with every prospect that work will be started within a couple of weeks. As an indirect result of the controversy over prices of rock, it is stated that before the next contract is let the federal government will probably condemn the land where there is rock that it needs, build a wharf and proceed to handle the matter of rock itself.

The parties to the deal whereby rock has been secured for the present section of the contract had many discussions before they came to an agreement on prices.

"After considerable discussion with the breakwater people," said Mr. Marshall, manager of the First Trust Company and acting for the owners of the land where the rock has to be secured, "we have entered into a contract which allows them to take rock from a restricted locality upon terms which are favorable and very satisfactory to us. Except for the reserved location covered by contract we are left free to deal with all comers upon such terms as we may agree upon. It is probable that before the next contract is let the government will condemn certain portions of the land, erect a wharf and establish a water haul for rock."

Marshall's contract is with the American Surety Company, bondsmen for the Philadelphia Breakwater Company, which went into bankruptcy. The bondsmen were required to carry out the contract made by the Philadelphia company. The amount of the contract is about \$450,000. It is stated that Marshall will bring in a new plant and try to run the work.

(Mail Special to The Advertiser.) HILO, May 4.—An express wagon loaded heavily with all sorts of legal documents wended its way slowly to the county clerk's office last Friday, with Elia Long as an escort, or guard, walking alongside. Its cargo consisted of the documents used by the Graft Commission, and its arrival at the county clerk's office marked the beginning of the end of the commission's work.

There were thousands of witnesses piled up in the wagon, and dozens of books.

Commissioners Williamson and Long superintended the returning of them to the county, and it took nearly all afternoon to do it.

KUHO BAY IS SAFE FOR SHIPS

Captain Mosher Submits Report at Interesting Meeting of Harbor Commissioners.

(From Wednesday Advertiser.) At the meeting of the Harbor Commissioners yesterday morning a report from Captain Mosher was read stating that there is not the slightest danger to any vessel entering Kulo Bay. The ship is safe and the wharf can be used by any vessel. The narrowest part of the new channel is over 500 feet wide, he said.

The board authorized Chairman Caldwell to request the Hawaii county supervisors to erect a 100,000 gallon water tank on Kulo Bay wharf immediately so as to supply fresh water to vessels. They suggested a maximum charge of not more than seventy-five cents per thousand gallons.

Following the presentation of a report from Commissioner C. J. McCarthy, which was to the effect that Governor L. R. Finkham will not sanction the expenditure of money for the erection of a cooling plant on Pier 4, the board discharged the special committee appointed recently to investigate the feasibility of such a plant, with thanks.

"During a recent conference with him, the Governor brought up the matter of the cooling plant," said Mr. McCarthy, "and told me that he would not authorize the expenditure of any money for a cooling plant on the waterfront. He said that such a plant should be erected in some other part of the city."

Chairman J. W. Caldwell said that the proposed plant would cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000, and asked the board if it wanted him to take any further steps in the matter.

"I have known that the Governor is opposed to a cooling plant like that erected by the Inter-Island," said the chairman, "but as long as it is necessary to cool vessels at Pier 4, I do not believe the Governor will oppose the building of such a plant when he understands the circumstances. The question now is, shall we build the plant or use the \$30,000 in some other place."

Ask \$400,000 for Site.

The board discussed the condemnation proceedings undertaken against the Bishop Estate in relation to the site occupied by the Marine Railway. The Bishop Estate ask \$400,000 for this land. T. M. Church moved that the attorney general be requested to meet with the board sitting as a committee of the whole, at an early date to consider this condemnation suit.

The chairman was authorized to enquire of the Kaula chamber of commerce, the Kaula civic league and other local commercial bodies as to the appointment of wharfingers at various Class B wharves.

James Wakefield told of having spent three hours under one of the Honolulu wharves examining the piling.

Captain Parker at Kaula will be asked to put all his orders in writing and file copies with the board.

Charges Based on Schedule.

A report recommending that the charges made against the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company for using the so-called Class B wharves be based upon a schedule recently compiled and submitted by a special committee consisting of James Wakefield and T. M. Church, was adopted. According to the schedule the monthly charge of \$350 is eliminated and the steamship company charged on the basis of the number of hours which it used the wharf each month.

The report follows:

"Your committee has examined carefully the matter of charges to the I-I. S. N. Co. for the use of Class B wharves. On the basis of our last recommendations as to charges for the use of this type of wharf, the bill we would render against the steamship company for the month of March for the use of Class B wharves would be \$121.97, showing a difference of \$102.93 less than the flat rate of \$350 a month.

"The Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, through its attorney, suggests that an exemption be made on all boats using Class B wharves that landed less than 1000 pounds of freight. If this exemption were put into operation, the charge against the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company for the month of March would be \$138.16, or a difference of \$217.84 between the flat rate base of \$350 a month.

"We recommend that the charges be based on the schedule we have placed before the board for its adoption, as we do not recommend that any further concessions be granted to the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company on any freight exemption basis. We do not consider that the business conditions or the proposed charges would justify any such concessions.

"We would further recommend that to assist in making up the monthly charges against the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company for the use of Class B wharves, that a monthly form be prepared for the use of the various wharfingers; this form to show the name of the steamer using the wharf, and the length of time it was operating at same. With this information filed monthly from each wharfinger with the secretary of the board, the clerk will have all necessary data before him to render an accurate bill to the Inter-Island."

In furtherance of this policy we recommend that wharfingers be appointed for Mahukona, Kaula, Fakoo, Nawiliwili and Hanalei, all other necessary ports and landings being provided for."

Poster's Recommendation Adopted.

The following letter from Harbor-master W. R. Foster was read and the recommendation therein ordered carried out:

"While making a tour of inspection under the wharves last Friday I noticed that wherever any part of the boat struck the copper on the piles, it dented the copper and in some places broke it. I think this was caused by the copper having become very brittle.

Superintendent Caldwell said the Governor has assured him that the loan fund will be available in a few months. The board discussed repairs to the Oceanic wharf and whether to make them now or wait for the loan fund cash to make a good job of it.

The board reported to the Governor that they could not make sewer connections from the wharves because of lack of funds. They ordered the depths of water in the slip at pier No. 15 marked on the piling, so that vessels would not attempt to go in and risk grounding.

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